

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2121

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TAGS: PINR, NL

SUBJECT: DEN UYL VISIT: EVALUATIVE COMMENTS AND PERSONAL
DATA ON FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR GENERAL
CHARLES RUTTEN

REF: STATE 088530

1. RUTTEN IS THAT IDEAL DIPLOMATIC COMBINATION OF
BRAINS, CHARM, GOOD LOOKS AND RATIONAL DEDICATION TO
HIS COUNTRY'S PURPOSES. MOREOVER, HE HAS THE MATURITY
AND BALANCED JUDGMENT OF HIS 54 YEARS WITHOUT LOOKING
IT OR APPARENTLY FEELING IT. THE LIFE OF AN EC-9
POLITICAL DIRECTOR THESE DAYS IS ONE OF ALMOST CONSTANT
CAPITAL-HOPPING AND INSTANT JUMPING FROM ONE MAJOR
SUBJECT TO ANOTHER. SO FAR, RUTTEN SHOWS NO SIGNS OF
BATTLE FATIGUE, EITHER PHYSICAL OR MENTAL.

2. IN A FOREIGN MINISTRY OF HIGHLY TALENTED, SOPHISTICATED
DIPLOMATS FROM THE SENIOR LEVELS TO THE BRAND NEW OFFICERS,
RUTTEN IS A STANDOUT. HE IS THAT RARE BLEND OF ENTHUSIASM
ENTEMPERED WITH REALISM, CONVICTIONS TEMPERED WITH
UNDERSTANDING FOR HUMAN FOIBLES, INHERENT DIGNITY AND
RECTITUDE SOFTENED BY A GENUINELY FRIENDLY, UNPRETENTIOUS
APPROACH. HE WOULD SCORE THE HIGHEST MARKS ON THE FSO
EVALUATION REPORT, INCLUDING THE TOP FIVE PERCENT OF HIS
CLASS IN POTENTIAL FOR "RAPID ADVANCEMENT DESTINED
FOR THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE SERVICE".

3. FROM THE US POINT OF VIEW RUTTEN HAS THE ADVANTAGES
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OF LIKING AND ADMIRING THE UNITED STATES AND BELIEVING

COMPLETELY IN A STRONG NATO. HE IS FREE OF THE HANG-UPS OF HIS PREDECESSOR AND SOME OTHER IMPORTANT DUTCHEMEN, CONVINCED OR WOULD BE EUROPEANISTS, WHO HAVE A LATENT RESENTMENT OF AMERICAN INFLUENCE AND PROFESS TO BELIEVE THAT A STRONG, UNITED EUROPE IS NOT POSSIBLE UNLESS THE US ROLE IS DIMINISHED.

4. WITH THIS SAID, RUTTEN IS NOT SPARING WHEN HE FEELS COMPELLED TO CRITICIZE CERTAIN AMERICAN POLICIES AND TACTICS, PARTICULARLY THE LATTER. HE IS NOT CONCERNED WITH TWO MUCH AMERICAN LEADERSHIP, RATHER A LACK OF IT OR, EVEN WORSE, US LEADERSHIP IN THE WRONG DIRECTION. IMBUED WITH A HEALTHY AMOUNT OF DUTCH PRIDE AND DETERMINED THAT HIS COUNTRY SHALL NOT BE OVERSHADOWED BY THE LARGER EC STATES, HE EXPECTS THE US TO KEEP ITS FRIEND THE NETHERLANDS IN THE PICTURE AT ALL TIMES, INCLUDING TIMELY TWO-WAY CONSULTATIONS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS WHERE THE NETHERLANDS HAS SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE.

5. IT SAYS A GOOD DEAL ABOUT RUTTEN THAT HE WORKED AS A PARTY OFFICIAL OF THE RELIGIOUSLY-ORIENTED, MODERATELY CONSERVATIVE CATHOLIC PEOPLE'S PARTY FOR FOUR YEARS BEFORE ENTERING THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1950, AND IS NOW OCCUPYING THE SECOND MOST SENIOR AND DEFINITELY MOST IMPORTANT CAREER POSITION IN A MINISTRY WHOSE TWO MINISTERS, MAX VAN DER STOEL AND JAN PRONK, ARE THEMSELVES COMMITTED SOCIALIST. FOR IF TURREN IS A "BI-POLAR MAN", ONE POLE BEING HIS COMMITMENT TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, THE OTHER IS JUST AS SURELY HIS COMMITMENT TO THE POLITICAL EQUALIZATION AND ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT OF THE THIRD WORLD. RELEVANT HERE IS HIS EARLIER THREE-YEAR STINT AS DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE NETHERLANDS PERMANENT DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS. MOREOVER, IN HIS PRECEDING MINISTRY JOB AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, RUTTEN WORKED CLOSELY WITH PRONK AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD HAVE BEEN PROMOTED OVER THE HEADS OF SEVERAL MORE SENIOR COLLEAGUES TO HIS PRESENT POSITION WITHOUT PRONK'S ENDORSEMENT. AS POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN WORKS INTIMATELY WITH VAN DER STOEL ON MATTERS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE AND SENSITIVITY FOR DUTCH DIPLOMACY, SUCH AS THE MIDDLE

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EAST DILEMMA. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT RUTTEN HAS VAN DER STOEL'S PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL ESTEEM AND RUTTEN RECIPROCATES BOTH WITHOUT ARRIERE-PENSEES. ALTHOUGH QUITE DIFFERENT IN MANNER AND PERSONALITY, THEY MAKE AN EFFECTIVE COMPLEMENTARY TEAM.

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